

News & Information

McGreevey highlights Labor initiatives at town hall meeting

On February 19, 2004, New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, joined by New Jersey Department of Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll and Camden County Assemblymen Joseph Roberts, addressed the South Jersey Central Labor Council at a town hall meeting held at the Clarion Hotel in Mount Laurel.

Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Kroll highlighted that New Jersey's economy grew in 2003, in contrast to its neighbors and the nation as a whole. The state created tens of thousands of new jobs in 2003, while the nation lost jobs. Additionally, New Jersey's unemployment rate has been below the national average for nine months. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia has predicted even more growth in 2004.

"The positive things happening with our economy and workforce are a tribute to the innovative workforce development programs developed under the McGreevey administration," said Kroll.

The duo also talked about the initiatives specific to South Jersey including \$1.4 billion invested in school construction for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties, \$175 million to attract private investments, create jobs, and energize Camden's economy.

More Town Meetings to come

Commissioner Kroll continues to enforce the state's Wage and Hour laws

On February 19, 2004, New Jersey Department of Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll announced that the state continues to show its commitment to protecting the rights of workers by vigorously enforcing the state's Wage and Hour laws.

The Wage and Hour Division of the New Jersey Department of Labor brought action against three companies that must provide unpaid wages totaling more than \$1.25 million.

As a result of this action, Vertex Interactive, Inc., of Paramus has agreed to pay unpaid wages totaling \$936,180 to several dozen present and former employees and Dye Specialties of Jersey City is required to pay \$330,000 in unpaid wages to 21 employees.

Additionally, the Trenton Municipal Court has taken action against the owner of MMD Service Associates, a Trenton-based electrical contractor. The state brought action against the owner in court for failure to pay overtime and maintain records. Approximately \$18,000 in wages is due to six employees.

"We must protect New Jersey businesses that follow the rules as well as protect the state's taxpayers," Kroll said. "Workers are entitled to the money they have earned, and businesses that observe the law should not be put

at a disadvantage by those that ignore it. Additionally, these dollars being returned to hard-working New Jerseyans are more likely to be invested in the state's economy, providing an added bonus for our overall economic well-being."

Deputy Commissioner McCabe awards training grant

New Jersey Department of Labor Deputy Commissioner Kevin P. McCabe, joined by company executives and workers at Crate & Barrel, a retail distribution center, awarded a grant to the company on February 18, 2004. The state will invest \$165,684 in the training program, and the company will match that with a \$160,516 contribution. The Institute at Middlesex County College will provide the training for 240 of the company's workers, including new hires, in English as a Second Language, leadership, office, and computer skills.

"The McGreevey administration is focusing on training today's workers by providing the skills that will be in demand tomorrow, so that our state is poised to be a leader in providing a highly skilled and highly trained workforce to the business community," McCabe said.

Since taking office, the McGreevey administration has invested \$31.8 million in these grants to train 52,521 workers at 306 companies.

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